AIR FORCE

AMC airports get connected

Today's Special FREE INTERNET

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SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Commercial airports have several computer kiosks providing Internet access and places where people can plug in their laptops. Those airports have the right idea. Now Air Mobility Command air terminals are doing that too.

"We must ensure we're providing communications and information capabilities that are just as expeditionary as our fighting forces. The ability to communicate within our force structure should be ever present. That's what we're striving for — a constant connection," said Col. Michael Basla, Air Mobility Command's Communications and Information Director.

To achieve this constant connection by June 2004, AMC's Communications and

Information directorate is incorporating a plan to place computer workstations — kiosks — and ports to connect laptops in most of AMC's passenger terminals, billeting lobbies, and base operations facilities. Each location will have at least two computers located in a public area accessible to all patrons. All official Department of Defense travelers may access the Internet on these systems, and active duty people can access their Webmail. They will also have access to local software applications like Microsoft Office.

If that isn't enough, the kiosks offer an added bonus for some: Remote Access Servers via Virtual Private Networks. Travelers may be able to connect to their home bases and work on these kiosk PCs as if they were sitting at their desks by connecting to their command's VPN gateway.

The kiosk initiative is implementing this in three phases. In Phase I, which is complete, the workstations were installed

at all baseside locations. In Phase II, the PCs connect via a consolidated commercial Internet service provider solution across AMC. In Phase III, AMC's overseas en route locations install and connect the kiosks. People on the move are now able to connect to the Internet via terminals in AMC CONUS passenger terminals, lodging lobbies, and base operations facilities at no cost to the user. If a family member is delayed, or deploying troops are awaiting transportation in the terminal, or someone is simply enjoying an extended stay in lodging they can make last minute contacts with family or add finishing touches to a performance report.

"With today's technology and AMC's commitment to excellent service, it's no surprise AMC is offering such a valuable service to the crews and families transiting its system. Whether it is refueling, cargo, passenger service or information services, AMC keeps making the right connection," Colonel Basla added.

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